



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

PAOLO M.B. TIRAMANI, ET AL.

Serial No. 09/849,740

Filed: May 4, 2001

Art Unit: 3618

Patent Examiner:

Frank Bennett Vanaman

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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213

July 12, 2004

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In response to the Office Action dated November 12, 2003, please enter the following amendments to the above-identified application as follows: